

We claim:

1. A patient positioning device that can be set on a treatment table,
comprising:

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a bottom support frame comprising a pivot;

a leg support;

a vertical support member coupled to the leg support;

a motor coupled to the bottom support frame; and

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an actuator, coupled to the vertical support member, which the
motor powers to push the vertical support member and the patient positioning device to
rotate from a lowered position to an elevated position.

2. The patient positioning device of claim 1, wherein the actuator
comprises a cylinder attached coupled to the bottom frame and a screw, which is coupled
to the vertical support member, that extends into the cylinder.

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3. The patient positioning device of claim 1, further comprising a pad
that fits behind a person's thighs.

4. The patient positioning device of claim 1, further comprising a rail
and a track for extending the leg support relative to the bottom support frame.

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5. The patient positioning device of claim 1; further comprising a
controller that is electrically coupled to the motor to control the movement of the device
between the lowered and elevated positions.

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6. A patient positioning device that can be placed on a surface on
which a person lies, and that can move a person's feet and lower legs between a lowered
position and an elevated, comprising:

a bottom frame comprising a pivot;

a leg support; and

a means for rotating the leg support about the pivot from the

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lowered position to the elevated position.

7. The patient positioning device of claim 6, wherein the means for rotating comprises a motor.

8. The patient positioning device of claim 7, wherein the means
5 comprises a controller for control the power to the motor and thereby move the device
between the lowered and elevated positions.

9. The patient positioning device of claim 8, wherein the means for rotating further comprises an actuator.

10. The patient positioning device of claim 9, wherein the actuator
10 comprises a screw and a cylinder.

11. The patient positioning device of claim 10, further comprising a vertical support coupled to the bottom frame and the leg cushion to which the screw is coupled, and wherein the cylinder is coupled to the bottom frame, so that when the screw moves linearly with respect to the cylinder the device rotates.

15 12. The patient positioning device of claim 6, further comprising a linkage that couples the bottom frame to the leg support.

13. The patient positioning device of claim 5, further comprising a pad that fits behind a person's thighs.

14. The patient positioning device of claim 13, further comprising a rail
20 and track for moving the leg support and the pad relative to the bottom frame.

15. An apparatus for the supporting a patient's lower legs while undergoing spinal traction while in a supine position, comprising:

a base;
a leg support;
a linkage that connects the base to the leg support and that rotates
the leg support from a lowered position to an elevated position, such that the patient's
5 lower legs can be rotated with the leg support.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a motor that is
coupled to the base to power the linkage and the leg support to rotate.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a cylinder coupled to
the base and the motor and a screw coupled to the linkage, the screw moving relative to the
10 cylinder such that when the motor powers the screw, the screw moves to rotate the leg
support from the lowered position to the elevated position.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a controller that is
electrically coupled to the motor to control the motor and the movement of the leg support.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a pad coupled to the
15 leg support for padding a patient's thighs.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the leg support is adjustable
relative to the base so that the leg support can be extended relative to the base.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a rail and a track for
moving the leg support relative to the base.

22. A patient positioning device that rotates to lift a patient's lower legs,
20 comprising:

a bottom support frame comprising a pivot;
a leg support;
a linkage that couples the leg support to the bottom support frame;

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29. The patient positioning device of claim 28, wherein the actuator comprises a cylinder attached to the linkage and a screw, which is attached to the bottom support, the screw extending into the cylinder.

30. The patient positioning device of claim 28, further comprising a pad
5 that fits behind a person's thighs.

31. The patient positioning device of claim 30, further comprising a rail and a track for extending the pad relative to the bottom support.

32. The patient positioning device of claim 31, wherein the leg support is coupled to the track and the rail so that the leg support moves with the pad relative to the
10 bottom support.

33. The patient positioning device of claim 28, further comprising a motor that powers the actuator.

34. The patient positioning device of claim 33, further comprising a controller that is electrically coupled to the motor to permit a patient to control movement
15 of the device.

35. A system for treating a patient, comprising:
(a) a patient positioning device comprising:
a leg cushion;
an actuator for moving the leg cushion between a lowered and an
20 elevated position; and
a motor for moving powering the actuator; and
(b) a traction device that places the lower back in traction.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the traction device comprises a femur board, a traction unit, and a cable that attaches the femur board to the traction unit.

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37. A system for treating a patient, comprising
- (a) a patient positioning device comprising:
- a leg cushion;
- an actuator for moving the leg cushion between a lowered and an
- 5 elevated position; and
- a motor for moving powering the actuator; and
- (b) a device for applying traction, comprising:
- a femur board that can be placed across the front of a patient's
- thighs;
- 10 a cable attached to the femur board for applying tension to the femur
- board; and
- a motor coupled to the cable for applying tension to the cable.
38. A method for passively moving a patient's legs to the supine
- position, comprising:
- 15 resting a patient's lower legs on a cushion;
- powering a motor which powers an actuator to move the leg cushion
- from a lowered position to an elevated position.
39. The method of claim 38, further comprising powering the motor to
- cycle the cushion between the lowered position and the elevated position.